

CP. 21 g. 38/8

THE readers of the Letters of H. W. and TYRTÆUS must see, that the former has completely established his allegations, "that the inhabitants (at large) of the town of Stockport, have no concern or connexion with the Society there, calling themselves the Friends of universal Peace and the Rights of Man;" and that the President (Nathan Hibbert) is not only an idle and illiterate person—but a pauper—the latter assertion Tyrtæus has dogmatically denied, and has resorted to a poor paltry quibble to prove it, worthy only of such a mean insignificant man as he is—does he think that mankind are so ignorant, that they know not the word pauper was in use long before Burn's Justice was written, or any laws respecting the poor were enacted? Hibbert, it is well known, has for many years received charity bread at Mottram church, and the meal given to the poor at Thorncliffe Hall, which certainly constitutes him a pauper in the primary and general sense of the word; and his rent having been paid for him by the overseers of the poor of the township of Godley, to which place he belongs, brings him within its legal acceptance. With these combined traits in Hibbert's life, how could Tyrtæus with truth say, "*he is not now, nor ever was a pauper in the proper sense of the word.*" In this instance, Tyrtæus and Truth are at war with each other. Tyrtæus, exultingly says, "his adversary has given up two things respecting the President, which he had positively asserted, as to his reading and writing"—but what is the fact—the passage alluded to is couched in these words, "*that he can read a little, but not write at all.*"—This can never be deemed a concession as to *both* reading and writing, a sophist only would have made the observation. He has been clearly proved, (and is generally known by those who have any knowledge of *him*) to be illiterate and uninformed, and is only fit to preside in a Society established for the horrid, but fruitless, purpose of effecting a change in our Government.

This history of Hibbert's life would not have been brought prominent to the eye, had he continued to move in that humble circle, in which providence had placed him. It is his political, and presiding, interference and his champion's *idle* defence of him, that has drawn upon him these strictures. The moment he suffered his name to be subscribed to a string of resolutions, disgraceful even to *him*; he became a fair object of attack, and nothing but marked ignorance could have prevented Tyrtæus and his friend and coadjutor the discarded preacher from seeing this. The character of H. W. is so irreproachable, that it cannot be assailed by his adversaries, and much less by the flimsy attacks of Tyrtæus and his colleague. When argument is wanting, personal abuse is substituted.

The political clubs, says Tyrtæus, exclude men for bad conduct; if this be true, Hibbert ought not to have been admitted a member, and much less elevated to the dignity of Chairman. His shameful conduct at the Shude-hill rencontre in this town, still lives in the memory of many.

Too much time, as well as too many observations, have been bestowed upon this untaught president and his *seditions* colleagues—but LET us, *my countrymen and fellow citizens*, protect our country from the machinations of these POLITICAL MACHIAVELS, these CONSPIRING CATALINES. LET us shew our marked disapprobation of societies, which are composed of men, who have little to LOSE, but much to OBTAIN, by anarchy and confusion. LET the example of France teach us to PREFER religion, peace, and a well regulated government, to BLASPHEMY, TREASON, and SEDITION; LET us not be imposed on by publications *daily* teeming from the press, replete with ATHEISTICAL CANT, FALSE PHILOSOPHY, and POLITICAL JARGON; and LET us immediately IMITATE the metropolis of this ENVIABLE Island BY CONVENING A MEETING OF THIS OPULENT TOWN FOR FORMING AN ASSOCIATION TO PRESERVE LIBERTY AND PROPERTY AGAINST REPUBLICANS AND LEVELLERS.

MANCUNIENSIS.

Manchester 6th December 1792